# SATURDAY'S PIRE IN CHICAGO.

The Prelude to the Drama of the Great Conflagration.

Twenty Acres of Buildings Burned.

Beven Hundred Thousand Dollars' Worth of Property Consumed.

### THE LOSSES AND INSURANCES.

From the Chicago Tribune (the last number issued)

The sounding of the fire alarm from box 248, at nde to one of the most disastrous and imposing nflagrations which has ever visited a city, which isitations, many of them so terrible that they can erve as eras in her history. For days past alarm osses have familiarised us to the pealing of the court House bell, and we had forgotten that the nce of rain for three weeks had left everything in so dry and inflammable a condition that a spark

Only a few minutes clapsed after the striking of alarm before the flames were seen sweeping to he sky, and the lurid light that filumined the horion grew more and more powerful, casting its brilquarters. The wind, seeming to rise as the its onward rush streams of sparks, cinders and oad area embraced between the river, the South Branch, Wells street and Jackson street, the lighter eavier and more dangerous ones fell before they eached that point. They dropped with great force n the ground, to the occasional danger of foot pas-engers and the scaring of horses, and showered pon the roofs of buildings, inspiring constant fearas other configrations would break out, and that terrible broad area wouldbe covered by the flames

Late as it was, the splendor of the flames and the ract enormous crowds from every quarter. The ensely populated quarter of the West Division lying ear the fire would have, of useil, been sufficient to boke up the surrounding streets with a dense and passable crowd, but, as the fire showed no signs of abating, they came from greater and greater di cances, forcing their way down Clinton street, in the bentre of which, near Adams, were half a dozen isolated street oars, utterly unable, for some time to some, to get back to their stables, and getting over or around the obstructions caused by policemen or engines, made their way down to Jackson, near which the fire began, and stopped there, caring bothing for the smouldering runes which lay be a mouldering runes which lay be a for the proof that point. They crowded quincy, Adams and Jackson streets on the o.e side of the river, while others, far more anxious, were fearful that the blaze might at any moment leap across the South Branch and sweep toward the filled streets leading to and on the east side of the South Branch.

At first the concourse was all from the West Side, but as time passed on they began to come from across the water, and as the blazing viaduct and keep police made Adams street bridge impassable, ances, forcing their way down Clinton street, in the

rose the scream of the engines or the thunder of ing beams and tumbling houses. The snarp ill of smoke filled the air with its oppressive

On the west side of Clinton street, from Jackson to On the west side of Chibton street, from Jackson to Adams, were the reflex of the household gods of the people who had been living on the east side of the people who had been living on the east side of the street, sometimes piled on drays or wagons, of the generally piled upon the sidewalk. After the advolution testing the property of the property

the terribily beautiful spectacle which unfolded riself before them.

Further north on the street the efforts of the fromen and the easiward toudency of the wind had preserved the houses facing west on Clinton street, the southern enes being mere shells and their condition improving as one went north, though they were all much scorende and rendered unfinabilities by the fire and its opposing e-maent—wastr. Fut though these sombte and fortoiding-looking tenements generally barren the view yet through sileys and occasional breaks in the enditings one citid there get a view into the furnation after his persons who approached red and sulpinarous glampses, as hone were gazing through the portats of heil. No one wasted any time upon those individuals who shood beside their possessions, and the only persons who approached them were in search of information concerning their possible insurance to which they generally replied fant they had none, when they replied at all to what they often considered a very nunceassary and rather importanent question.

Other inquiries were also made as to whether any persons were missing or had been injured; but while it is impossible, so great was the confusion, to ascertain much concerning it, it is beyond doubt while it is impossible, so great was the confusion, to ascertain much concerning it, it is beyond doubt while they missing for ever, unless some portion of her bones should have escaped them. Mirs. Downing was an old woman wo lived in one of the pouses on the north side of Jacsson street, near Canal, and who, surprised in her sicep by the advancing fire and stupefying smoke, would have been unable to escape without foreign aid. Happily this was afforded by a printer of the name of Robert Campsie, who succeeded in carrying her out, but not until she had been severely burned, nor did ne escape without serious injuries. She was taken to a house on Jefferson street, not far off, where she is now receiving medical attention. But, while she secaped, her daily medical attention is the

turbed, for, with the exception of one false alarm, nothing occurred to distract their attention from the business in hand.

PROGRESS OF THE CONFLAGRATION.

At the time of the appearance of the five, which originated in Luil & Hoimes planing mill, on Canal street, near van Buren, the wind was blowing due gorth, so that the spread of the flames was northward in the main, although the misculet was soon communicated to the right and left, and the district from Cliston street to the river, a distance of two blocks, was embraced in the destruction. Soon, however, the wind veered from the southwest, and the line of fire began to take an angle to the northwest. The buildings and piles of sumbor between

the last line of Olinton street and the river, at a point about midway between Van Buren and Jackson streets, were entirely swept away, and the flames, sweeping across to the north line of Jackson street, threatened to follow that line no one could tell how far. The Fire Department were proveness to check the progress of the fire, which was carried bodily across the intervening streets and swept to the northward. On Jackson street, between Cinton and Canal, there was a continuous line of wooden buildings, mostly two-story frame dwellings, and back of these were various carpenter shops, barns, sheds, woodpiles, &c., all of which became so rapidly surrounded by fire as to renaer the saving of the contents an impossibility. In many cases there was barely time to arouse the occupants and get them in safety from the premises, One after another THE BUILDINGS WERE ENVELOYED IN PLAMES, and in the brief space of twenty minutes the space

reached

THE ADAMS STREET VIADUCT.

and soon a wail of fire drove across the passageway and barred it effectually. Under the bridge the
devouring element was sucked with learful velocity,
and before any steps could be taken to prevent it
the sidewalks and railings of the iron viaduct were
lapped up, and a long, low shed, on the northeast
corner of Adams and Canal streets, used as a freight
depository by the United States and Adams Express
Companies, was doomed to destruction. As rapidly
as possible the centents were removed, but there
was not time enough to save one-quarter of the
goods in store. Beyond this shed, to the eastward,
stood a large number of
PASSENGER COACHES

stood a large number of
PASSENGER COACHES
belonging to the Pittsburg and Fort Wayne Railroad
Company, to save which it was necessary to tea
down the shed, which was successfully accom
plished. Had it been otherwise and had these car

and fort Wayne freight depot, consuming in their train the passenger buildings, cars, &c., and never stopping until Madison street-bridge was reached. All this was fortunately prevented by the strendous endeavors of clitzens—the Fire Department being unable to operate to advantage in this locality—who, appreciating the terrible danger of a further spread to the east and northeast, labored most heroically in the midst of a horrible shower of livid cinders and a flerce, hot, driving smoke.

SOUTH LINE OF ADAMS STREET.

While the citizens were battling so successfully between Canal street and the river, north of Adams street, the firemen were having a furious contest on the south line of Adams street. The buildings were all wooden structures, mainly occupied as residences, and it had become perfectly clear to everybody that the great fight must take place at this point. Once let the flames cross to the north line of wooden structures on Adams street and

and THE CONSEQUENCES WERE AWFUL TO CONTEMPLATE. and
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A dozen leads of hose—all that could be worked
to advantage—were brought into the street, and as
many streams of water were directed on the burning buildings, the rear portions of which were blazing intrously. Inch by inch those firemen fought
for an advantage, fighting in a perfect heil of heat
and smoke. Their courage and endurance were
something magnificent. While the spectators, hundreds of teet further away, cowered before the terrible heat and biinding drift of glowing cluders, the
pipemen stood their ground, often for five minutes
at a stretch, within a dozen feet of the wall of fire,
now and then withdrawing a few paces in order to
get breath, only to return to the charge as manfully
as before. They could not hope to extinguish, but
they did succeed in subduing, the flames so as
to save the opposite buildings, and prevent any
further spread of the configuration. This was the
grand pitched battle of the occasion—the masterpiece of the department—and it deserves to be sigmalized as one of the most remarkable achievements on record.

THE BOUNDARIES
of the confiagration may be briefly summarized as

of the connegration may be briefly sammarized as Between Chnton and Canal streets, about three-fourths of the area south toward Van Buren street. Between Canal street and the river, about nine-tenths of the area south toward Van Buren street. Between Canal street and the river, and Adams and Jackson streets, the entire area. Between Canal and Cinton streets, and Adams and Jackson streets, about seven-eignths of the entire area, the outly remaining bundings being the frontage of about eighty feet on Adams and 128 feet on Cinton street.

On the east side of Canal, north of Adams, about

the area, the only remaining bundings being the frontage of about eighty reet on Adams and 12s feet on Cinton street.

On the east side of Canal, north of Adams, about one hindred feet frontage—the Express Company freight sneds—is consumed.

As nearly as can be estimated the total area burned over covers about twenty acres, which is by far the largest district ever devastated by fire in Chicago, even eclipsing the famous condagration of 1857.

From the planning mill the fames travelled with ungovernable fury west and north, igniting all the lumber in the lumber and attached to the planning mill. The sparks—some large brands—were carried by the draught of air on to Clinton street. Meanwhite the truck house, owned by the city and situated on the southwest corner of Jackson and Chinton streets, ignited, and was reduced to a cinder in a remarkably short time. A row of dwelling houses on Jackson street, between Canal and Clinton, caught fire somewhere in the middle, the flames shooting from the, lumber yard on the south side, impelied by a rearing southwest wind. These dwelling houses, dried almost to tinder by the long continued drought, fell before the consuming flames without appearing to add to their savage brilliancy, so quickly were they destroyed. They succeeded in helping the fire into, the mass of dry barns, outhouses, shanties, shops and dwelling houses situated on Cinton street and in its rear. They were all on fire in a few minutes, and in a few more were reduced to ashes. All the dwelling-on Jackson street, from Canal to Clinton, were thus destroyed, while the fire travelled half way to Adams, on Clinton.

on Cinton street and in 1's rear. They were all on fire in a few minutes, and in a few more were reduced to ashes. All the dwellings on Jackson street, from Canal to Clinton, were thus destroyed, while the fire travelied half way to Adams, on Chiaton. The whole of the row of houses, ten in number, was owned by Alanson watson, and were totally destroyed. They were occupied by twenty eight lamilies in all, who lost all their property with the exception of a few articles they had succeeded in removing before the flames rendered ingress to their buildings impossible.

No. 65 Jackson was a two-story frame house, on the corner of Clinton street. It was occupied by three families, namea respectively, Peters, Williams and isaacs, Williams was a printer. The total loss of the three lamilies must have been about \$400, upon which there was no insurance.

No. 65 was vacant, and owned by Lazarus Silverman; total loss. No. 61 was also owned by Mr. Silverman, and occupied by W. Robbins, a nackman. His loss was about \$50; no insurance.

No. 61 was owned by Mr. Watson and occupied by Patrick Power. His loss was probably \$300; insured or \$500, though he does not know in what company, and believes the policy has expired.

No. 50 was owned by Mr. Watson. It was a two-story house. Thomas Walker and two daughters occupied the lower part of the house. Their possessions, valued perhaps at \$300, were all destroyed, and were not insured. The upper story was occupied by Mrs. Merrill, who was in great distress, having no shoes on her feet, which were wet and masty. It is probable that her loss is \$100; no insurance.

No. 57 was also a two story house, owned by Mr. Watson, and occupied on the lower floor by Frederick Greenough. His loss is \$400 uninsured. He was waiting for some miraculous agency to restore nis property. The upper floor was occupied by \$8m McAthister, who says he lost \$500 any way, and had no consolation of insurance.

No. 57 was also a two story house, owned by Mr. Watson, and occupied by a man natued Klein, was destroyed

was occupied by the truck house belonging to the city. Loss, \$2,500.

CLINTON STREET.

Adjoining the truck house on Chinton street stood two one-story frame cottages, owned by Messrs. Haitslander & Randali, as a box, blind and sash factory. Their establishment was piled up with immer and valuable property, and they claim to have lost \$10,000 by the transaction. They were protected with a light proportion of insurance.

No. 186 Chinton street was north of Jackson. It was a two-story frame house, where Mr. Monatan Raifroad depot as general porter or in some other capacity. He succeeded in saving his goods, but claims to have lost a respectable amount. There was no insurance on his destructible property.

No. 184 was owned by Mr. Watson and occupied by John Weiss, who insists that his name in decent english is White. His furniture covered the sidewalk to an appailing distance, but he insisted on his losing \$400, on which he had \$500 insurance in the Firemen's.

No. 182 was also owned by Mr. Watson and occupied by John \$400.

walk to an appaining distance, but he insisted on his losing \$400, on which he had \$500 insurance in the Firemen's.

No. 182 was also owned by Mr. Watson and occupied by F. Cromin, whose loss is claimed to be \$500; insured for \$400. The farmiture is insured for \$400. No. 180 was also owned by Watson, and occupied by an israeliush family named shoen. His loss is assumed to have been \$1.000; insured for \$400. Mr. Sallivan, who accupied the top acce, lost all his property. No insurance,

NOS. 178/5 and 178 were owned by C. B. Farwell, They were but slightly injured. No. 176 was also owned by Mr. Farwell, and occupied by Junes Hanley.

In a house in the rear lived a hackman named Lewis, who saved his hack. Near him was the wagon shop of Messrs. Bolzer & Co., who had just at the present time a great press of repairing on nand. They lost not only their entire stock, but a number of wagons sent over for repairs. Loss about \$8,000; insurance probably light.

AN UNWHOLESOME SUGGESTION was made by some bystanders. There was a story

this was true or false it was impossible to discover last night.

CANAL STREET—THE ORIGIN.

The fire originated in the boiler room of the large planing mil of Luil & Holmes, at No. 203 Canal street, and, as far as could be ascertained, was groundless—that is, no possible or probable cause was assigned for its origin. The building was of brick, two stories in height, and about 100x60 feet on the ground. The whole building, machinery and material of the firm were consumed, involving a loss of not less than \$20,000. The insurance on the planing mill was about two-thirds that amount. In the rear of this was a box factory belonging to a Mr. Poster. The loss is stated to be about \$5,000; insured for \$1,500.

Directly north of the planing mill was a two-story frame dwelling, which was totally destroyed; no insurance, as har as could be ascertained. North of the dwelling on Canal street was a two story frame building, used as a saloon and dwelling. This was totally consumest, with a total loss of about \$1,000 the occupant, and no insurance as far as could be ascertained.

At Nos 189 and 191 South Canal street was situ.

to the occupant, and no insurance as far as could be ascertained.

At Nos. 189 and 191 South Canal street was situated the Excelsior Vinegar Works of F. Weigle. The building and machinery were entirely consumed, involving a loss of fully \$12,000 to the proprietors. On this there was an insurance of \$9,000, as follows:—Teutonia, of Cleveland, \$1,000; Alps, of Erie, \$1,000; Hibernia, of Cleveland, \$1,000; Chicago Fire, \$2,000; Knickerbocker, of Chicago, \$1,000; Lycoming, of Pennsyivania, \$1,000.

ON THE RAST SIDE of Canal street the wind permitted a scarcely less disastrous conflagration in proportion to the value of the property than accurred on the west side. The Racine House was located at No. 210, and suffered the late of the rest of the street, being totally consumed. The building belonged to a man named Magie, and was uninsured.

The Union Wayon Works, situated at No. 190, on the same street, were also totally consumed. They were owned by Mr. E. F. Flood, whose loss on building and stock will approximate \$17,000. Mr. Flood is understood to have been insured for \$6,000.

Messrs, Chapin & Foss, inanufacturers of shingles and tath, at Nos. 220, 222, 224, 226 and 228 Canal street, had, in addition, a large lumber yard, in which were contained not less than four million feet of lumber. About on e-third of this was destroyed, the loss involved being between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Their insurance was \$12,000, all placeu by the Firemen's.

men's.

At Nos. 216 and 218 were the lumber yards of John Sheriffs & Son. These yards contained not far from three million leet of lumber, valued at over \$6,000 in Their insarance was large, but not commensurate with their loss. Among the Items may be mentioned \$6,000 in the Germania, and \$16,000 in the Liverpool, London and Globo. Other companies could not be learned until the opening of the firm's safe. The whole sum was stated to be \$35,000.

At No. 214 was situated a large two-story frame, occupied by several German families as dwelling houses. The ownership was understood to have been in Messrs. Sheriffs & Son, and the loss was complete. The firm held some insurance, but how much was not ascertained.

At No. 212 was a two-story frame, also belonging to Sheriffs & Son. In this building was the office of the firm. It was totally destroyed.

THE GREATEST LOSS of the destructive fire, next to the planing mill, was in the coal and wood yards on the cast side of Canal street, where B. Holbrook had an immense amount of coal in store. The value of the stock was set at \$38,000, and it will be nearly all lost. The insurance was not large enough to cover everything, being not far from \$250,00. This was placed in the Firemen's, Mutual Security, Germania and two other companies.

The next drm north of Holbrook was a smaller

one, Messrs, Launor & Cornish. They were entirely burned out,
North of the last named firm was the establishment of W. E. Johnson, agent of the Whimington Coal Company. He had quite a large amount of coal on hand, and his loss will not be less than \$3,000. The insurance will amount to about two-thirds of this sum.

Directly north of Holbrook's yard was the blacksmith shop of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company. In this were a large
amount of valuable tools and machinery, which
were entirely consumed. The loss will be about
44,900.

Two barns were included in the fire on the east
side of the street, and the loss in them was, perhaps, even more unfortunate than in the yards,
The barns belonged to Messis. Johnson and Holbrook, and in each of them were consumed valuable
live stock. The loss of Mr. Holbrook under this
head will, it is understood, be exceptionally heavy.
The number of horses lost could not be ascertained,
but will not be less than haif a dozon, and may
reach twice that number.

ADAMS STREET.

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Soon after midnight the fire began to appear in Soon after midnight the fire began to appear in the rear of the buildings fronting on the south side of Adams. The flames came on in vast volume, and in less than ten minutes Nos. 38, 42, and 44 were enveloped. They were as dry as tinder, and burned rapidly. The flames ran up the rear of the houses, along the roofs and sides, burst out of the vindows, and in twenty minutes not a vestige was left. The firemen had all they could do to prevent the fire from leaping across the street, and the buildings on the opposite side were only saved by being deluged with water.

so Fierce was the heat
that the crowd fell back voluntarily before it, glad
enough to get terond the react of its scorching
power. No. 35 was owned by Samuel Wagner, who
lived in the basement, and toe first floor was occupied as a samon. Nos. 42 and 44 were totally destroyed, the latter being owned by Mr. Stephenson.
Fortunately there were vacant lots along the street,
and the loss of property was, therefore, less, as
nothing could have stayed the progress of the fire
had the block been entirely bulk.
When the fire threatened to consume the house
on Clinton street the inhabitants began to move
their goods and rurinture out on the street. They
were mostly poor people, some of them bearders,
and at of them will be at a scrious loss, to say nothing of the inconvenience and discomfort they saffered. Beds, chairs, tables, bureaus, clothing, and
everything that makes up household furniture were

heaped up in an indescriminate mass, guarded by the owners, who stood gazing upon the hery sea that spread out before them. There were mere them there were many and intite ones, who could not fully comprehend the disaster, clinging around them and crying pitiably for protection. The sight was heartrending. Many of them mourned their loss, but all seemed thankful that their lives and the lives of those dear to them were preserved from the merciless wave of fire that swept everything before it. One poor man deplored the loss of an overcoat which cost him \$40 a lew days previous, and his wife wondered where he could find another to shelter him from the cold of the approaching winter. A woman lying sick in one of the houses alone, her nusband being away, did not discover her danger until the fire was close upon her premises. Then she escaped with a blanket around her, everything she owned in the world being ablaze a few minutes afterward. So it was with many others. There were cases of distress all around, but it would be impossible at this writing to narrate any more.

The new visited over Adams street was wrapped in flame and about one hundred feet of the dooring was burned. The paint was scorched and blistered, the total damage amounting to about \$1,030, which the city will have to pay. From a distance the view of the visduct was weigh and grand. The from railing stood out like the ribs of some gigantic skelcton coademned to the lower regions, the flumes and smoke twisting and twirling around and in and out among them.

The Adams and United States Express Companies

among them.
The Adams and United States Express Companies

ing stood of the to lower regions, the names and smoke twisting and twirting around and in and out smoke twisting and twirting around and in and out among them.

The Adams and United States Express Companies had a smail shed for the delivery of goods near the viaduct, and fronting on the railroad track. Some men who were looking after the property were driven away by a shower of sparks failing as thick as snowfakes, but they returned and moved away two or three cars standing near the shed. The shed itself took fire soon after from the viaduct and was totally destroyed. The loss and insurance, if any, could not be definitely ascertained.

Owned by Vincent, Nelson & Co., made a narrow escape. For a time it seemed to be almost surrounded by the farmes, and looked like some tail rock looming up in the midst of a secthing ocean of fire. It was expected momentarily to fail a prey to the famics, but happily it was saved.

THE TERRIBLE SCARE—THE FLYING STARKS AND CINDERS.

From all the bridges in the vicinity of the great fire the scene was one of unparalicled, terrible beauty. The dense column of smoke, driving before the soutcasterly gale the millions of burning cinders, carried by the force of the wind over a mile from the theatre of configgration, and the dense, fiery glow of the destroying element itself, thuminating the entire city, made up

A PANORAM OF GRAND EUT TERRIBLE FEATURES.

Everything was rendered so plain by the grantle fames that the topes on the vessels in the river stood out in stronger reher than they would have done in the light of day, while the gallant firemen drove their horses, coming from the south Side Grength over the burning bridge at Adams street, calling forth the admiration of all beholders. The number of spectators was begond precedent, every alley and lane, as well as the principal streets, the crossyards of vessels and the rooms of houses were gartisoned with anxious and excluded the great destroyer. Again and again the flames appeared by the boys to check the advance of the great de

cers rendered most em tent service, and deserve much praise for their energy and forbearance throughout the excellences.

cers rendered most em. Nent service, and deserve much praise for their o. Difficulties.

No fire that has ever taken pluce in this city progressed with so much rapidity, and at no previous time was it so diment to get at the facts and figures, owing to the general destruction, which bred a confusion seidom, it ever, equalied.

At an early stage of the fire the attention of the spectators was diverted for a time to the "Chicago" engine, which was overtaken by an unbooked-for disaster. It was stationed at the northwest corner of Canal and Jackson streets, and had commenced operation when the entire side of a house sealed to give way, and the flames burst out ha a farrious volume. The engine was almost enveloped in the flame, and the engineer and all the men were compelled to desert her and declor their lives. After a time the flames at that point subsided, and a crowd of citizens rushed to the rescue and dragged her off. She was considerably damaged, but not to such an extent as to proven her from going into active sorvice at a subsequent period of the night.

The western whester the Western Union Telegraph Company were burned and broken down, so that communication with the West was temporarily suspended, and the wires of the Fire Alarm Telegraph in the western part of the city met the same late.

INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS—A COLLAPSE.

On the corner of Chinton and Jackson streets was a large sted, the roof of which offered a tempting "coigne of vantage" for the crowd. It was accordingly taken possession of at an early stage of the fire, and the numbers on the roof kept on increasing thit the crowd numbered about one bundred and fity people. All of a sudden the roof gave way, and the entire structure collapsed with a great crash. A cry of terror arose from the crowd. A large number of the adventurous spirits had gone down with the ruins and were severely crushed. The precise number who suffered hupty was not ascertained. Every effort was made to rescue the sufferers, and it is believed that no lives were lost.

The

When the fire was raying in the lumber yard of Sheriffs & Son some six or eight men were surrounded by fire and could not get out. They were in imminent danger of being suffocated or burned, and, as a last resort they tumbled one of the blazing stacks of lumber lato the river, and made a sort of rait upon which they paddled their way in saiety to the opposite bank.

PROPERTY SAVED IN THE RIVER. PROPERTY SAVED IN THE RIVER.

Deadly diseases call for sharp remedies. It was a singular sight to see the men belonging to the coal yards hauling heavy trucks and wagous and precipitating them into the river. This was the only method to be adopted to save them under the circumstances. About fifteen trucks and twenty-five wagons were in this manner thrown into the river.

THE SIDEWALKS

son to Van Buren, street, were entirely burned up of otherwise destroyed.

LOSSES AND INSURANCE—DIFFICULTIES.

In a fire of such magnitude it is reasonable to presume that every insurance company in the city has suffered to a greater of lesser extent. The lateness of the hour and the extraordinary confusion prevasing everywhere, however, precladed the possibility of obtaining an approximation to a correct list of the companies. The following are among the names of those reported this monning:—Firemen's, Home, Equitable, Commercial, Unicago Fire; Tentonia, Cieveland; Alps, Lycoming, Hibernia, Bundalo City, Bundato Fire and Marine; Weston, of Buffalo; Andes, of Cincinuat; Illinos Mutual, Merchants'; Pacific, San Francisco; Union, San Francisco; Fireman's Friend, Knickerbocker, Kepublic, Great Western.

Owing to the extent of the fire it was impossible to learn the losses or the insurance of the owners of the property destroyed. The probable loss will be in the neighborhood of \$700,000; the insurance is about two-thirds of that.

## FORMER FIRES.

### THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON.

Terrible Conflagrations in New York, Pittsburg, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Portland, Charleston and Chicago.

### TABLE OF OTHER MONSTER BURNINGS.

to find a parallel to the terrible fire which has fiame. On the 2d of September, 1866, the city of London was almost unterly destroyed by what has since been known as the Great Fire. This awful conflagration gamed headway with the same terdreadful days of ruin and terror and panic laid twothirds of the English metropolis in ashes. Like the fire at Chicago it broke out upon a Sunday, though at a different hour-two o'clock in the morning. It with the quaint name of Farryner, at Pudding lane, near the Tower. At that period the buildings in the English capital were chiefly constructed of wood, with pitched roofs, and in this to the water side, the stores were mainly filled with materials employed in the equipment of shipping, mostly of course of a highly combustible na-ture. To add to the conspiring causes of the im-mense mischief in which the fire ultimately resulted the pipes from the New River—the source of the water supply of the city—were found to be empty, and the engine which raised water from the Thames was among the first prop-erty destroyed. The vaciliation and indecision of the Lord Mayor aggravated the confusion. For several nours he refused to listen to the counsel given him to call in the aid of the military, and when the probable proportions of the fire were plainty apparent, and when it was clear that the de-struction of a block of houses was absolutely necessary to the preservation of the city, he declined to accept the responsibility of destroying them until he could obtain the consent of their owners. All through Sunday the wind increased in violence, and the fire sped with incredible rapidity from house to house, from street to street, on its work of havoe. We cannot now do better than transcribe the account of the further mischlet caused by the fire given by Mr. Jonn Evelyn, in his "Diary." It reads as follows: follows:—
SEPT, 3. The fire continuing, after dinner I took coach with my wife and son and went to the Sankside, in South wark, where we beheld that drendful speciacle—the whole city in dreadful sames near ye water side; all the houses from the Bridge, all Thames street, and upwards towards Cheapeside downe to the Three Cranes, were now con-

SPPY. 3. The fire continuing, after dinner I took coach with my wife and son and went to the Bankside, in South wark, where we beheld that dreadful speciacle—the whole city in dreadful thans near ye water side; all the houses from the Bridge, all Thannes street, and upwards towards Cheapeside downe to the Three Cranes, were now consumed.

The fire having continued all this night (if I may call the fire having continued all this night (if I may call the property of the same place and saw the whole south part of ye city burning from the species to the Thannes and all along Cornobial, (ior it kinded back against the wind as well as forward. Tower street, Feachurch attect, Gracious street, and so along to Baland's Casile, and was now taking hold of St. Paule's church, to who the scaffolds contributed exceedingly. The conflagration was so universal and the people so astomated that, from the beginner—I know not from which, desponder, we recommend the people so astomated that, from the beginner—I know not from which, desponder, we recommend the distracted creatures, without at all attempting to save oven their goods, since a strange constraint nerve was upon them—so, as it burnet both in length and breadth, the churches, public halfs. Exchange, hospitals, monuments and ornaments, leaping ailer a producing manner from house to house and streets of streets, all greate distance one from ye other; for ye boate, with a long set of tair and warme of the people so there is a greated distance one from ye other; for ye boate, with a long set of tair and warme of the people so the people and year the people and the people and year the people and year the people and the peopl

And again:much have seene 200,000 people of all ranks and degrees dispersed and lying along by their heapes of what they could save from the use, deploring their losse; and though ready to perish from hunger and destitution, yet not asking one penny for relief, which to use appeared a stranger sight than any

for relief, which to me appeared a stranger sight than any I bad yet beheld.

How vivid an idea of the suffering and misery entailed by this terrible visitation we find in this simple but expressive narrative! Nearly two-thirds of the entire city were destroyed. Thirteen thousand houses, eighty-nine churches and many public buildings were reduced to charred wood and ashes. Three hundred and seventy-three acres within, and sixty-three acres without the walls were utterly devastated. Well might Mr. Evelvn compare the first other and yet more awind one which will ensuif the entire world as the day of doors?

Beginning on a Sunday as did that in Chicago yesterday, the same cause—a high wind—was the cause in each instance of the extensive consequence of the conflagration. The London fire, however, was selzed upon by fanantical preachers as an illustration of the avenging justice of God upon the wickedness of the metropoils. Let us hope that no American pulpit will resound to this class of unseemly "improvement" upon the awing causer of the necessary on the american pulpit will resound to this class of unseemly "improvement" upon the awing causer of the necessary on the american pulpit will resound to this class of unseemly "improvement" upon the awing causer of the conflagratively happier.

That great event in the history of this city, the 'great fire," occurred on the night of the 16th or December, 1835. It was declared by the croakers of the time a damper upon the city's prosperity and a position. But though the people lost a great part of their capital, they did not lose their strength, energy and enterprise, and the proper application of those qualities caused their city to rise, Phoenix-like, from

above stated the fire was discovered in the store No. 25 Merchant street, a narrow street that led from Peari Into Exchange street, near where the lost Office then was. The fiames spread rapidly, and at ten o'clock forty of the most valuable dry goods stores in the city were burned down or on fire. The narrowness of Merchant street, and the gaic which was blowing, aided the spread of the destructive element. It passed from building to building, leaped across the street between the blocks, urged by the gale and in no wise deterred by the feeble forces opposing it. The night was bitterly coid, and, though the freemen were most energetic, the freezing of the hose and the water in their defective engines, combined with their sufferings from the weather, made their efforts of little avail. The flames spread north and south, east and west, until almost every building on the area bounded by Wali, South and Broad streets, and Coenties sip, was burning, gutted or levelled to the ground. There was not a building destroyed on Broad street nor on the block on Wall street from Wilham to Broad street, the fire taking an almost circular course just at the rear of the buildings on the streets named. The scene in the might was one of indescribable grandeur, the glare from the 300 buildings that were at one time burning brigatly lighting up the whole city. In all 530 building ung were destroyed; they were of the largest and from the 300 buildings that were at one time burning brightly lighting up the whole city. In all 530 buildings were destroyed; they were of the largest and most costly description, and were filled with the most valuable goods. The total loss, estimated at first at about \$20,000,000, was afterwards found to have been about \$15,000,000. Of the buildings destroyed the most important were the Merchants' Exchange, the Post Office, the offices of the ceiebrated bankers, the Josephs, the Allens and the Livingstons, the Phenix Bank and the building owned and occupied by Arthur Tappan, then much despised for his anti-slavery sympathes. The business portion of the city was alone that burned over, so that low poor were rendered otherwise than with out employment.

that has devastated property in this city, began on the morning of the 20th of Jaly, 1845. The fire

originated in a sperm oil store in New street, near the corner of Exchange place, about three o'clock on the morning named, and spread over a great part of the territory which had been the scene of the conflagration of 1835. The flames were compart of the territory which had been the scene of the confiagration of 1835. The flames were communicated to a chair factory adjoining and nearer to the corner of Exchange place, whence they passed along Exchange place to Broad street. There they enwrapped a building in which was a quantity of salipetre, or gunpowder, on storage. When this building had been burning for about fireen minuses a most awful explosion took place which shook the city like an eartiquake. The buildings lamediately after the explosion are was discovered in four different places, and shortly the rear of the entire block was blazing. Soon the fire leaped to the south side of Broad street, passing at the same time to Broadway. All this time the firemen, atthough making the most streamous efforts, had effected but little toward suppressing the flames. On Broadway they spread downward toward the Bowling Green; and on Broad street nors toward wall street and south to Beaver street, along which they passed to New street, both sides of which had been devastated. The fire was checked ere it had reached the magnificent Merchants' Exchange on its way to Wall street. Both sides of Exchange place, from Broadway to Broad street and hall way down to William, were burned. Every building on Broadway from Exchange place down was levelled, and then the flames turned into Marketfield street, where the buildings were destroyed, among which were the

Putsburg, Pa., was visited by a most destructive configuration on the 10th of April, 1845. By it a very large portion of the city was laid waste and a greater number of houses destroyed than by all the fires that had occurred previously to it. Twenty squares, containing about eleven hundred buildsquares, containing about eleven hundred buildings, were burned over. Of these buildings the greater part were business houses containing goods of immense value—grocery, dry goods and commission houses, and the spring stocks of the latter had just been laid in. The fire commenced in a frame building at the corner of Second and Ferry streets, and the prevailing strong wind urged it with fearful rapidity through the city. So short was the time between the discovery of the flames and their spread through the city that many persons were unable to save any of their household goods, while others, having got theirs to the walk, were compelled to flee and leave them to be seized and destroyed by the element. The merchants were equally unsuecessful in saving anything from their warehouses. The loss was estimated at \$10,000,000.

A confiagration by which an immense amount of property was destroyed took place in Philadelphia on the afternoon of that day in a store at 78 North Delaware avenue. The fire was beyond control Delaware avenue. The fire was beyond control when discovered, and soon spread, despite the most strenuous enforts to prevent it, to the storchouses adjoining. When the fire had reached the cellar of the building in which it had originated two expiosions occurred which rent the wais of the building and threw flakes of combustible matter in all directions, setting fire to many other building. Delaware avenue and Water street were crowded with persons who exhibited little feat at these evidences of dangerons substances being stored in the building. Suddenlya third and most terrific explosion occurred, by which a number of men, women and children were killed and several buildings demoished. This disaster caused a banic among the firemen and spectators, and in the efforts of all to escape from danger many were trampled upon and injured. Some were thrown into the Delaware, and others jumped in to get away from the falling bricks and beams sent up from the burning building by the explosion. The number of persons who lost their lives by the explosion as about thirty, nine persons who imped into the river in a fright were drowned, and about one hundred persons lapared. The area over which the fire spread contained about four hundred buildings. Its locality was one of the most densely populated in the city, and, a large number of the residents having been poor people, the suffering caused was immense. The loss was about one militon deliars, and the fire would be a comparatively small one had there been no loss of life.

The most terrible configration of which Phila-delphia was the theatre—after that of July, 1850 occurred there on the morning of February 8, 1865. Like its predecessor it brought death to many, and in the most normble and painted manner. Fac fire In the most horrable and painth mamer. The fire originated among several thousands of barrels of coal on that were stored upon an open lot on Washington street, near Ninth. The flames spread through the oil as if it had been gunpowher, and it a very short time two thousand barrels were adjace and sending a hage column of flame and smoke upward. The residents in the vicinity, awakened by the noise of the beils and aremen, and affinghted by the glare and nearness of the fire rushed in their hight garments into the streets that were covered with snow and slush. The most prompt to leave their homes got off with their lives; but those near the spot where the fire commenced, and not prompt to escape, were met by a terrible scene. The blazing oil poured into hinth street and down to Federal, making the entire street a lake of fire that ignited the houses on both sides of the street for two blocks. The flames also passed up and down the cross streets and destroyed a number of houses. The flery torrent was wnirled back and forth along the street at the pleasure of the wind, and as it passed destroyed everything in or near its course. Propte leaving their blazing homes, hoping to reach a place of safety, were roasted to dearn by it. Altogether, about twenty persons were roasted in the streets of houses. Firemen making vain endeavors to saw the poor creatures from their norrible fate were fearfully burned. The loss of property amounted to about \$500.000, and fifty buildings were destroyed. From Washington street to Federal, on Ninth, every miding was burned.

San Francisco, 1851.

of San Francisco was retarded in its pro-The city to use its present proud position by many grees toward. not ling more than fire. The most nothing more than fire. e many conflagrations which bays destructive of L w began on the 3d of May, 1851, occurred in that a until the ster inst. The and it desiroyed 2,500 buildemounted to \$3,509,000, and it destroyed 2,500 bundlings. The fire began in a adjoining the American
sine of Portsmouth square, biaze when discoyhouse, able ough but a sight twe minutes enwrapgred, the burking was withing twe minutes enwrapgred, the burking was withing twe minutes enwrapgred the burking was withing the fire engines
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thouse and the building the direct other
thouse and the building the direct of the partial sheep were also buildings being all of wood and extrem. To Sacha
mento and down that street towards Ken. Toy with
rearing rapidity. Soon the fire departments as comnelled to give up every attempt to extinguise, it and
to confine their work to making its atvants less
rapid.

nelled to gree by the relationship its released to confine their work to making its released to confine their work to making its released to confine their waters expected. But in every other direction is took its own course and was only arrested at the water's edge and the runs of the nodess that had been blown up. The simpling in the harbor was only protected by the breaking up of the water's, Thousands of persons were made houseless, and for a long time-after fived in tenus. The duston floure, seven hotels, the Post Office, the offices of the zeon-stip company and the banking nodes of Page, seven hotels, the Post Office, the offices of the zeon-stip company and the banking nodes of Page, liacon & Co. were destroyed. During the continuance of the are a number of persons were burned and others daid from their exertions toward subduing it.

Another larged fire devastated a great portion of San Francisco at June, 1851. It occurred on the Zalof that month, at disciplination at 25,000,000.

The terrible fire 'which mid in rains more than half of the city of Portland, Me., commenced at ave

o'clock on the afternoon of the 4th of July, 1866. Beginning in a cooper's shop at the foot of High street, causer, by a firecracker being High street, caused, by a firecracker being thrown among some wood shavings, it sweps through the city with frightful rapidity. With difficulty-did the innabitable of the houses in its path escape with their rives. Little effort was made to save household goods when this saving involved a possibility of death. Everything in the track of the fames was destroyed, and so completely that when they had been overcome even the streets could hardly be traced. For a space of one mide and a half long by a quatter of a mile wide, there seemed a straggling lorest of chimneys, with parts of their walls attacated. From the place of beginning the fire was swept by a violent gale in a devious way, sparing nothing in its passage until it was checked by the ruins of the houses which had been blown up. The utmost endeavors of the firemen of the city, alded by those from other cities and towns, were of little avail until the plan of blowing up had been carried out, and then only to prevent the fire from spaceding and cause it for want of fuel to burn out. One had of the city—and that the one which included its business portion—was destroyed. Every bank and all the newspaper offices were burned, and it is somewhat singular to note that all the lawwers affects in the city were swept away. The spandid city and county building on Congress street was considered fireproof and safe, and was filled with furniture from the neighboring houses, and then the fames catching it had it in ruins. All the jeweiry establishments, the wholesale dry goods houses, several conarches, the telegraph offices and the majority of other business places were destroyed. The Custom House, though badly burned, was not destroyed. Most singularity a building on Middle street, occupied by a hardware firm, was left two thousand persons were rendered house-less and were sheltered in the churches and tons creeted for them.

The ail the loss was estimated at \$10,000,000, which was out in small part covered by insurance.

Charleston, S. C., was, on the 27th of April, 1838, visited by one of the most destructive fires that has ever occurred in any city in this country. A territory equal to almost one half of the entire city was made desolate. The fire broke out at a quarter past eight o'clock on the morning of the day mentioned day. It was then arrested by the blowing up buildings in fis path. There were 1, lis buildings destroyed, and the loss occasioned was about \$3,000,000. The worst feature of the catastropne was the loss of life which occurred while the houses were being blown up. Through the careless maner in which the gunbowder was used four of the most prominent citizens of the city were killed and a number injured.

Chicago, 1857, 1859, 1866, 1868

On the morning of the 19th of October, 1857, a fre occurred in Chicago which, though notable from the amount of property destroyed by it, was made The fire broke out in a large double store in South ings adjoining, and across an alley in the rear to a block of new buildings. All these were completely of the buildings a number of persons ascended to tre

of the buildings a number of persons ascended to its roof to there fight against them. Wholly occupied with their work, they did not notice that the wall of the burning building tottered, and when warned of their danger they could not escape ere it fell, crushing through the house on which they were, and carrying them into its ceilar. Of the number four-teen were killed and more injured. The loss in property caused by the fire amounted to over haif a million of dollars.

A fire, the most disastrous after that of October, 1851, took place on September 13, 1859. It broke out in a stable, and, spreading in different directions, consumed the block bounded by Cinton, North Canal, West Lake and Fulton streets, on which the stable was situated. From this block the fire was communicated to Biacenord's lead works and to the hydraulic mills, whence it passed to another block of buildings, all of which were destroyed. The total loss was about five hundred thousand dollars.

Property to the amount of \$500,000 was destroyed by fire on the 19th of August, 1865. The fire originated in a wholesale tobacco establishment on South Water street, and passed to the adjoining buildings, occupied by wholesale grocery and drug firms. The first two buildings and contents were utterly, while the other was but partially, destroyed.

A fire, which destroyed several large business houses on Lake and South Water streets, took place November 1s, 1996. It originated in the tobacco warehouse of Banker & Co., and the loss caused by It was about \$500,000.

The fire which occurred on the 28th of January, 1865, was the most destructive by which Chicage had ever been visited. It broke out in a large boot and shoe factory on Lake street, and destructed. The sparks from those buildings set fire to others distant from them on the same street, and caused their destruction. In all the loss caused their destruction. In all the loss caused their destruction.

Table of Former Great Fires.

Norfolk, Va., destroyed by fire and the cannon balls of the British. Property to the amount of \$1,500,000 destroyed. January 1, 1776.

City of New York, soon after passing into possession of the British; soo buildings consumed. September 20-21, 1776.

Theatre at Richmond, Va. The Governor of the State and a large number of the leading innablicants perished. Becember 22, 1811.

City of New York; 530 buildings destroyed; loss, \$20,600,000. December 16, 1835.

Washington city. General Post Office and Patent-Office, with over ten thousand valuable models, drawings, &c., destroyed. December 18, 1836.

Philadelphia. Prity-two buildings destroyed. Loss, \$500,000. October 4, 1839.

Quebec, Canada; 1,500 buildings and many lives destroyed. May 28, 1845.

City of New York; 300 buildings destroyed; loss, \$6,000,000. June 20, 1846.

St. John's. N. F., hearly destroyed; 6,000 people. made homeless. June 12, 1846.

Quebec, Canada; Theatre Koyal; 47 persons burned: to death. June 14, 1846.

Nantucket; 300 buildings and other property destroyed; loss, \$8,000,000. August 17, 1846.

Erookiyn, 300 buildings, steamboats, piers, &c., destroyed; loss, \$8,000,000. August 17, 1846.

Erookiyn, 300 buildings destroyed. September 9, 1838.

At St. Louis; Is blocks of houses and 23 steamboats; loss estimated at \$4,000,000. May 14, 1851.

Concord, N. H.; groater part of the business portion of the town destroyed. August 24, 1851.

Congressional Library, at washing/on; 35,000 volumes, with works of art, destroyed, December 24, 4851.

At Montreal, Canada, 1,200 houses destroyed; loss, \$4,000,000. The cember 10, 1863.

Metropolitan Hall and Laiarge House, 40 this city, January 7, 1854.

More the 100 houses and factories and houses destroyed, July 30, 1854.

Metropolitan Hall and Lalarge House, in this city, January 7, 1834.

At Jersey City, thirty factories and houses destroyed, July 30, 1854.

More than 100 houses and factories in Troy, N. Y.: on the same day a large part of Milwankee, Wiss, destroyed. August 25, 1854.

At Syracuse, N. Y., about 100 buildings destroyed; loss \$1,000,000. November 8, 1854.

New York Crystal Palace destroyed. October 5, 1854.

Otty of Charleston, S. C., almost destroyed. 1 ebedary 17, 1865.

At Quadeo, Canada; 2,500 houses destroyed: 1082, \$2,000,000.